

America has clearly stated that now is the time for a renewed focus on the issues of importance to the middle class and working families. While the 111th Congress has fought hard for the middle class, and had much success, there is still a lot of work to be done. That's why we have established the Populist Caucus, and we invite you to join us in our efforts to fight for working families and the middle class.

The middle class is the economic engine of America. Unfortunately, the middle class has seen tough economic times lately, and it's time for a renewed emphasis on those issues that serve to strengthen the middle class and improve the lives of working families. The Populist Caucus will focus exclusively on these types of issues.

### **Populist Caucus Platform:**

- Fighting for working families and the middle class by creating and retaining good-paying jobs in America, providing fair wages, proper benefits, a level playing field at the negotiating table, and ensuring American workers have secure, solvent retirement plans;
- Cutting taxes for the middle class and establishing an equitable tax structure;
- Providing affordable, accessible, quality health care for all Americans;
- Ensuring quality primary education for all American children, and affordable college education for all who want it;
- Defending American competitiveness by fighting for fair trade principles; and,
- Protecting consumers, so that Americans can have faith in the safety and effectiveness of the products they purchase.

### **Populist Caucus Members:**

Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA), Chair\*;

Rep. Michael Arcuri (D-NY), Vice-Chair\*;

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Vice-Chair\*;

Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH), Vice-Chair\*;

Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-IA)\*; Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)\*; Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)\*; Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX); Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)\*; Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA)\*; Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL)\*; Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)\*; Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)\*; Rep. Steve Kagan (D-WI)\*; Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH); Rep. David Loebsack (D-IA)\*; Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM); Rep. Eric Massa (D-NY)\*; Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME)\*; Rep. Tom Perriello (D-VA)\*; Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA)\*; Rep. Jan Schakowski (D-IL)\*; Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)\*; Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY)\*; Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT)\*; and Rep. John Yarmouth (D-KY)\*.

\* indicates a Founding Member of the Populist Caucus